


The National Labor Relations Act of 1935, the New Deal's "Magna Carta for labor," explicitly prohibits private sector employers from interfering with the right of workers to organize labor unions. Unfair labor practices include firing pro-union employees or threatening to close a workplace if workers vote to unionize. The law has not stopped prominent corporations from union busting. Even if workers form a union local, that does not mean an employer will negotiate fairly about wages, hours, and conditions or even recognize the existence of the union. John Oliver on his Last Week Tonight did a special feature on union busting in the United States. It is worth watching.

Below is an alphabetical list of some of the worst anti-union, anti-worker companies in the United States that operate on Long Island. I confess that I shop at a number of them, but I know I need to find alternatives. Stop and Shop, where I buy most of my groceries is a pro-union chain. 60,000 Stop and Shop employees at over 400 stores in the northeastern United States are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Stop and Shop has 20 Nassau County stores and 19 in Suffolk.

Apple: I am typing on an Apple desktop computer. Apple is historically an anti-union company. In June 2022, Apple store workers in the Baltimore area became the first of the tech giant's U.S. retail stores to vote to organize. The pro-union vote was 2-to-1. There are also unionizing campaigns in New York City and Atlanta. In response to the organizing campaigns, Apple vice president Deirdre O'Brien, who was caught on an internal video, told Apple employees "I worry about what it would mean to put another organization in the middle of our relationship. An organization that does not have a deep understanding of Apple or our business. And most importantly one that I do not believe shares our commitment to you." Apple was then accused of union busting in a complaint to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) because Apple managers presented anti-union propaganda at mandatory all-staff morning meetings. Apple tried to defend itself by claiming that attendance at staff meetings, called "daily downloads," was really voluntary. There are Apple stores in Manhasset and at the Roosevelt Field Mall.

Amazon



IKEA: Ikea has an uneven history with labor unions. IKEA operates over 400 stores in 49 different countries and many of the company's international employees belong to trade unions. However, in 2018, when there were more than 15,000 employees working in 40 IKEA retail stores in the United States, none of them are unionized, although some IKEA warehouse workers were union members. In 2016, IKEA used the anti-union law firm Ogletree Deakins to defeat a union effort.

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